

L.T. SUNOCO - September 13, 1933

Good Evening, Everybody:-

I suppose I ought to start out tonight by singing a song. And that song ought to be: "I Love a Parade." No matter whether I love a parade or now, there seem to be millions who do, and some of them are packed, jammed, out on Fifth Avenue, right outside my window here at the NBC, *right now.*

I spent part of today in Trenton, New Jersey, down on the banks of the Delaware in the city famous for pottery, for its history and for a hundred other reasons. When I returned to New York at three-thirty I decided to walk up Fifth Avenue from 34th Street to Radio City. When I got to Fifth Avenue I found the greatest crowd of people jammed along that world-famous avenue that I have ever seen in New York. Probably there was a crowd like it on Armistice Day, but surely no other time. Just imagine a quarter of a million in the line of march, with millions and millions

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of others watching them! It was a cool day, ideal for a parade, but the fifth Avenue canyon was actually hot, from the heat generated from the sea of people.

Are the people behind the President? New York today is giving a vociferous answer. It certainly is the most prodigious response to any president's program that the country has ever seen or heard.

The Grand Marshal of the parade is Major General Dennis Nolan, estimated that it should not take more than eight hours to pass up Fifth Avenue. But by six thirty this evening barely a third had passed the reviewing stands, and it is now quite obvious that the show will last indefinitely.

The parade is certainly a credit to the enthusiasm and organizing capacity of that urbane magnifico and ex-commissioner of police, Mr. Grover Aloysius Whalen. No less than seventy-seven trades and industries are represented in the march. Everybody from doctors to icemen, taxi drivers and newspaper men, soldiers, sailors, even I am told radio broadcasters.

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And the show has been a particular boon to one industry. I hear that every musician in New York, without exception every one, got a job today, a job which for some of them was the first in many a long weary month. In one of the reviewing stands was the First Lady of the Land, Mrs. Franklin D., with General Johnson, the vigorous N.R.A. administrator, and Governor Lehman of New York and Governor Moore of New Jersey. They were in the reviewing stand in front of the Public Library. The only other stand was at Rockefeller Center in the block just north of the seventy story R.C.A. Building and facing St. Patrick's Cathedral. Incidentally, His Eminence, Cardinal Hayes and other dignitaries of the Archdiocesan staff reviewed the parade from the steps of that Cathedral.

It took me an hour and a half to walk about fifteen blocks, and I had to fight and squirm most of the way, using a Paramount Newsreel man as my buffer. The crowds were so dense one could hardly move in front of the two reviewing stands, at the Public Library and at Rockefeller Center. Suddenly I heard a woman near me scream:-

"Oh oh! I've lost my shoes." Just at that moment we all moved like a great human wave and that lady was swept so far ~~away~~ from her shoes that she never saw them again.

I suppose the most common expression heard on Fifth Avenue today was: "My poor feet!" You just couldn't keep the ~~them~~ <sup>old dogs</sup> from being ~~stepped on~~ <sup>run over</sup> by the vast mob, the greatest throng of people, and the most orderly I have ever seen in America.



WELLES

When Dr. Cespedes established his short-lived government in Cuba, it was announced that our Ambassador Sumner Welles would leave Havana on September 15th and resume his old job in the State Department. The more recent troubles on the island, however, have changed all this and it was announced today, <sup>in Washington,</sup> that Ambassador Welles will remain in Havana indefinitely. There is no news of importance from Cuba today.

ARMY POSTS

A sweeping economy by the War Department ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> announced.

~~Today~~. No less than fifty old army posts will be abolished

altogether. Many of these posts have been obsolete for sometime.

This <sup>will</sup> leave about fifty posts still in existence throughout the country.

## CREDIT

One of the principal tasks occupying the attention of the President at present is that of bringing about an expansion of the country's credit. It was announced at the White House today that Mr. Roosevelt for the time being will try a campaign of persuasion on the bankers. He will also offer them liberal cooperation and support from the government.

If this fails to achieve his purpose, the Administration will adopt a policy of direct loans to be called "Payroll Loans." These loans will be made to business people and manufacturers who are anxious to expand their operations.

At the same time President Roosevelt is exceedingly anxious that the prices of agricultural commodities be boosted. It is estimated that the price that the farmer gets for what he raises must go up thirty-three and a third percent, before the farmer gets his purchasing power back to where it was in 1914.

NBC.

RELIEF

( A meeting of President Roosevelt's executive council was held today and a plan to spend sixty million dollars on relief in various parts of the country was outlined to the President. )

There are five parts of the country which have been seriously damaged by disasters of different kinds. For instance, the Dakotas were devastated by the drought and a plague of grasshoppers. In the Texas Panhandle ferocious winds flattened the grain crop. Then too there was that hurricane which swept the valley of the Rio Grande and a portion of Florida.

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The White House has instructed the Farm Credit Administration to be as liberal as possible with its credit in those regions. But Mr. Roosevelt thinks that all this will not be enough. So the Emergency Relief Administration will provide emergency funds for food and clothing for the people and feed for the livestock.

N.B.C.



STRIKE

That strike in the Pennsylvania coal fields ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> quite serious. A message from Pittsburgh brings the information that twelve thousand miners stayed away from the job this morning. The total of men idle in that district now is more than twenty thousand. The only district that is not affected is in the Allegheny Valley. There the union leaders have been able to hold their men in line hoping that a code is ~~about~~ to be signed soon. But in other sections ~~of~~<sup>all</sup> the important coal ~~companies~~ companies are affected.

N.B.C.

A. F. Tschiffeley.  
Rode from  
Buenos Aires to  
Washington D. C.

Sept. 13, 1933.

INTRO. TO TSCHIFFELEY

A few years ago a young man who was teaching school in the Argentine, got tired of his classroom. He decided to chuck it and make one of the most unusual trips in history. So he got him two horses of the kind known as Argentine Creole<sup>s</sup>, a piebald and <sup>^</sup> buck-skin, ~~then~~ he set out to ride all the way from Buenos Aires to Washington, D. C. The young school master and his two horses crossed the Andes three times to make that trip. They traveled a total of ten thousand miles through flood, jungle, quicksand, prairies, swollen rivers, over ~~these~~ deserts and swamps from the Argentine to Peru, through Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Mexico.

The trek took ~~him~~ thirty months.

<sup>Argentinian</sup>  
The school master ~~is~~ who took this extraordinary ride

is A. F. Tschiffeley. The story of that amazing exploit is

told in a book called Tschiffeley's ride which Simon and Schuster ~~are bringing~~ <sup>have brought</sup> out, <sup>and which by the way has been a sensation in</sup> ~~is~~ Tschiffeley is here at my elbow and I am

going to ask ~~him~~ him to tell you some ~~thing~~ of the things

England.

INTRO TO TSCHIFFELEY - 2

he has seen. Incidentally, you may recall that the other evening I mentioned something about the great international highway which is being planned between North and South America.

*the possibilities of that great road* Mr.  
Tell us something about that, *λ* will you *λ* Tschiffeley.

L.T.



TSCHIFFELY

Well, Mr. <sup>Lowell</sup> Thomas, that Pan American Highway is probably the most daring project road-engineers have ever conceived. It will be thousands of miles long, through every climate and imaginable kind of country.

Only a few years ago, when I rode on horse-back from Buenos Aires to Washington, I had a splendid opportunity *to see* for myself ~~to see~~ and appreciate the obstacles which would have to be overcome to make this project practicable.

On my arrival in Washington, when I was received by President Coolidge, he showed a keen interest in the proposed highway, and when he asked me to give my opinion I told him frankly that I was no expert in such matters, but that I very much doubted the practical possibilities of such a route.

True; from an engineering point-of-view the construction of such a highway is possible, but so many other factors have to be taken into consideration that I doubt that such a road will ever be built.

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From this country to Panama; yes. Today it's quite easy to make the overland journey to Mexico City by car. And even further south. It should not be difficult to make a road through the rest of Mexico, then through Guatemala, San Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and on to Panama where American engineers have already constructed an excellent road which leads far inland towards the Costa Rican border.

However, to reach Colombia from Panama would be very difficult owing to the low swamp regions of the Darien and Atrato; and I can see no practical value of a highway along the Andes where Nature works on so gigantic a scale that it passes human understanding. The little traffic there is in these parts goes down to the few ports along the Pacific. Distances are enormous, the countries poor, and there would never be enough traffic to justify the costly construction and up-keep of a highway such as the one in question.



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Please do not think that I am trying to pose as an expert, but if I may suggest an easy way to overcome the natural obstacles, not to mention the political ones, of a highway along the Andes, I propose suspending it from balloons, for thus, even if it were useless, it would at least have originality.

L.T.

REPEAL

( Postmaster General Farley's promise of prohibition repeal by Christmas is beginning to look like a reality. Now that not only Maine but Maryland, Minnesota and Colorado have turned in their votes for repeal, it needs only seven more. )  
Idaho and New Mexico are to vote next Tuesday. The Literary Digest poll shows both of those once dry states ~~to have~~ switched ~~to~~ the ~~wet~~ wet column.

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Incidentally, it is interesting to observe that Minnesota, the home of Saint Andrew Volstead, father of the Volstead Act, went two to one for ~~its~~ repeal. The Maryland Free State was six to one against prohibition while in Baltimore the wet majority was eleven to one.

At any rate, it's quite manifest now that the repeal landslide is on, and nothing can stop it.

N.B.C.



## STOCK EXCHANGE

There <sup>has</sup> been a terrific to-do in Father Knickerbocker's realm about new taxes that are proposed. One plan is to levy a tax on gross profits of all ~~brook~~ brokerage houses. This has got the Stock Exchange up on its ear. The President of the Exchange issued a warning that if this tax bill were passed it would drive business out of New York City.

Governor Harry Moore of New Jersey has taken Mr. Whitney up on that. He invites the New York Stock Exchange to move <sup>across</sup> ~~over~~ the Hudson, ~~River to New Jersey~~ and even offers to give the brokers any site they choose, tax free.

A similar invitation was extended by Jersey City. It not only duplicates the Governor's offer but throw<sup>s</sup> in a private ferry to take members of the Stock Exchange back and forth, to and from New York.

N.B.C.

FLAG

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Somebody played a joke on the city government of New York today. The joker contrived without being seen by the police, to run a pink flag up the tall flagpole in front of City Hall. After that he called up the newspaper offices and urged them to investigate.

When the reporters got there they found a group of policemen clustered around the foot of the flagpole highly mystified. One of them suggested that the flag had something to do with the N.R.A. parade. But a reporter pointed out that the N.R.A. flags are blue, and this banner on the pole was red or at any rate, pink. Then when the police tried to pull the flag down they discovered they couldn't do it because the ropes had been cut.

Finally one of the athletic cops had to swarm up that sixty foot pole and bring the flag down in his own lily white hands. As he did this it was discovered that the flag bore the ~~xxx~~ legend: "Hands off Cuba."  
N.B.C.



PERSHING

A well known American celebrates his seventy-third birthday today -- General John J. Pershing. <sup>"Black Tack"</sup> He celebrated it by sitting at his desk in Paris and working. General Pershing, as you may recall, is in charge of the American War Memorial to be erected in France.

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The Legion of Valor lads are holding their National Convention N.B.C. here and at the big final banquet tonight I am sure they will salute their old Chief, General "John J."

HORSE

Another classic English horse race was run off today:

The St. Ledger. And it was won by the Earl of Derby's Hyperion,

the same horse that ~~made~~<sup>won</sup> such a brilliant victory ~~in~~<sup>year's</sup> the Derby.

It is exceedingly unusual for the same horse to win both those

races. The runner-up in the St. Ledger was a horse belonging

to the Aga Khan, the incredibly wealthy Moslem potentate from India.

N.B.C.



DEMPSEY

I was beginning to fear that the comedy element was sadly lacking from tonight's news, but a spicy little item from San Bernardino, California, comes as a life saver. It concerns our old friend, William Harrison Dempsey -- Jack Dempsey to you, and ~~was~~ sometimes ~~is~~ known as the Manassa Mauler.

Jack was refereeing a wrestling match at San Berdoo as the Californians call San Bernardino. In the middle of the bout the wrestlers started to slug each other which Referee Dempsey considered unorthodox. So he stepped in and shoved the men apart. One of the ~~wrestlers~~ wrestling pachyderms was an Australian named Leslie Grimes who didn't seem to know who Jack Dempsey was. Mr. Grimes took a swing at Dempsey's jaw. Jack grinned, moved his head slightly and came up with his left.

It took two doctors working hard over two hours to bring Mr. Grimes back to consciousness.

In case you are interested in the outcome of that wrestling bout, Mr. Dempsey called it a draw, *which after all was rather sporting of him since one of the wrestlers was out cold.*

WIFE ENDING

"Why," said the first man, "do you call your wife  
a 'boy scout driver?'"

To which his friend replied: "Because she makes at  
least one good turn a day."

And now it is my turn to turn away from this  
mike and say -- SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.

L.T.